

# Afterlife

...

Nazret (Nazzy) Berhane  
she/her/hers

# Josephus

1. Jewish War (completed before the year 79 CE)
2. Jewish Antiquities (completed in 93/94 CE)

# What Are The Jewish “philosophies” That Josephus Talks About?

1. The Jewish “philosophies” that Josephus talks about are two Jewish sects that embraced the idea of post mortem reward and punishment.
  - **Essenes:** a Greek view of the Afterlife; enjoy reward or endure punish (**Josephus, *J. W.* 2.154-58 and Josephus, *Ant.* 18.18**).
  - **Pharisees:** “the soul of the good alone passes into another body, while the souls of the wicked suffer eternal punishment” (**Josephus, *J. W.* 2.163 and Josephus, *Ant.* 18.14**).
2. The **Sadducees**, however, rejected the idea of the immortality of the soul and post mortem reward and punishment.

1. *Psychē*

- meaning “soul”

2. *Nefesh*

- sometimes “refers to the whole person”

3. *Neshamah*

- meaning “breath” and by extension “living being” (e.g., Ps 150.6)

# What Are Other Interpretations Of The Afterlife? How Are They Important?

1. **Plato's Philosophy:** The immortality of the soul, including its existence before entering the body as well as its survival after death.
2. **Tanakh:** says nothing explicit about reward and punishment after death.

**However...**

- The Book of Job
- II Kings 2:11
- Daniel

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According to **Daniel 12:2-3**, it says “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

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## 3. The Book of the Watchers

- I En. 1-36 (Jewish text)

# What Are Other Interpretations Of The Afterlife? How Are They Important?

**4. Mishnah:** “This world is like an antechamber before the world to come; prepare yourself in the antechamber so that you may enter the banquet hall” (*m. Avot* 4.16)



# What are Some Early Christian Interpretations?

## 1. Christian Apocalyptic Writings...

- Apocalypse of Peter
- Apocalypse of Paul

# What Is Matthew's Take On The Afterlife?

1. Matthew 25:46
2. Matthew 7:13-14

# Works Cited:

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